

# 2001-2002 ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE INDEX (API)

## Questions and Answers About Alternative Accountability System

### What types of schools are included in the Alternative Accountability System?

The Alternative Accountability System currently encompasses two models:

- The Alternative Schools Accountability Model (ASAM)
- The Special Education Schools and Centers Model

Originally the Public Schools Accountability Act (PSAA) called for three categories of schools to participate in the Alternative Accountability System. These included schools in the models above as well as schools that served fewer than 100 students. However, traditional schools with 11 to 99 valid STAR scores are now accountable through the Main Accountability System where they receive an API with an asterisk. Schools with less than 11 valid STAR scores are accountable through the ASAM.

### What types of schools are included in the ASAM?

The ASAM includes alternative schools that, for purposes of the Alternative Accountability System, are defined as schools that serve a majority of students who are:

- at high-risk for behavioral or educational failure,
- expelled or under disciplinary sanction,
- wards of the court,
- pregnant and/or parenting, or
- recovered dropouts.

Schools serving these students must meet the challenge of addressing a wide range of personal and social issues that interfere with the students' abilities to reach grade-level standards. Alternative schools participating in the ASAM include alternative, continuation, community day, county court, county community, opportunity, California Youth Authority, and some charter schools. Schools with fewer than 11 valid STAR scores also participate in the ASAM.

### What progress has been made in implementing the Alternative Accountability System?

Implementation of the Alternative Accountability System has progressed in accordance with the conceptual framework adopted by the SBE in July 2000 (the report is available at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/psaa/asam/>).

- ASAM schools have selected two State Board-approved performance indicators in addition to STAR and collected and reported baseline data on these indicators for school year 2001-2002. These reports were submitted to the SSPI in July 2002.
- The Special Education Schools and Centers Model currently encompasses the Quality Assurance Process, the annual Individualized Education Program (IEP) review, and the three-year re-evaluation process. The SBE reviewed this model in the fall of 2001 and recommended that no additional accountability measures be imposed at that time.

### Can schools in the ASAM opt to participate in the Main Accountability System?

Districts were given the option of having schools that were eligible for the ASAM participate instead in the Main Accountability System (with the exception of schools with fewer than 11 valid test scores, which must participate in the ASAM). Once a school has begun to collect data under the ASAM, however, it is required to continue in the alternative system for a minimum of three years. Likewise, once a school begins to participate in the Main Accountability System, it must remain in that system for at least three years.

### Can new schools participate in the ASAM?

Yes. Districts or county offices of education that have recently established, or are in the process of establishing, new alternative schools serving high-risk students should contact the Educational Options Office of the Education Support Systems Division at (916) 322-5012.

### Are schools in the Alternative Accountability System eligible for awards and interventions?

Not at this time. Goals for growth will be set for ASAM schools after the first year baseline data are collected. Criteria for meeting growth targets are currently being determined. New legislation will be required to make schools in the Alternative Accountability System eligible for awards and interventions.

Information about the Alternative Accountability System can be found at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/psaa/asam/> or by contacting the Education Options Office of the Education Support Systems Division at (916) 322-5012.